



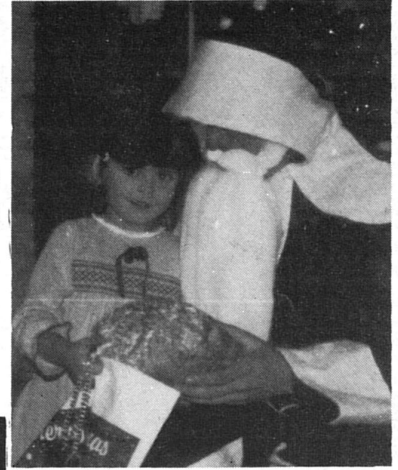
The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company

NEWS REVIEW

APRIL 1981



Children's Christmas Parties



AND YET AGAIN



Michael Ryan, one of our trainee Waterworks operatives, who made headlines a year ago in our Company Magazine, when he received the Bronze Medal, has now been awarded the Peart Cup.

This cup is awarded for outstanding work in

the final year of the Waterworks Operatives course and the Company must be justifiably proud of this young man.

The Bolton Technical College where he has attended during the last two years are regret-



tably being forced to drop this course from their syllabus because of lack of support.

Michael has since his award been appointed to Waterman for the Lichfield/Tamworth area.

CENTRAL OFFICE

AS we ride into the sunset along the M6 motorway towards the base camp, we take a last look back to the place, they now call Central Office, where for 3 years much hot air, toil and heartache has been experienced by so many. Yes, its really finished, well almost; but then, of course, a project like this will never quite be finished. There will no doubt always be something that's not quite right, doesn't fit or dropping off (it's the cold weather that causes that), or maybe an odd building or two to construct, but hopefully no more leaky roofs and definitely no more practice runs by Walsall Fire Brigade.

For me, February 1981 marks the end of an era spanning 3 years to the week since the Company purchased the old T.I. site.

It seems a long time since the doubts and fears of the staff were aroused by the possibility of changing their habits and ways of a lifetime but now we hope that most transferees have settled into their new environment.

The time involved for such a major rethink and development of the Company's operations has not been protracted and the eventual success of the project must be attributed to those employees who had a continuing input into the design and construction, those who have produced new procedures and systems but, most importantly of all, members transferred to the Central Office who, by their attitude, have made the new Centre work so effectively.

On a personal note, the New Works Department site team wish to express their appreciation for the "help" and "assistance" that so many have provided during the difficult development and construction programme.

A final word with apologies to Robert Browning.

Oh, to be at Green Lane, now you are all there,
And who wakes up at Green Lane,
Sees, some morning, unaware,
That roof leak has stopped and buckets have gone.

Everything's fine and here comes the sun,
The starlings 'sing' on the pear tree bough
At Green Lane now.

And after starlings, fire follows,
Fire engines appear and everyone hollas.

- ALL FINISHED

Fire on the roof, no, false alarm,
And Perks dashes out and gushes the 'charm'!
Think parking cars in fields of clover,
Oh, no, it's tarmac all over,
Now problems are solved and things go well,
How happy you'll be?

Only time will tell.
John Bryan

SUGGESTION SCHEME

YOU may remember that I introduced a Suggestion Scheme in the last News Review and the response has been encouraging

Sixteen suggestions have been received to date, six have been resolved and £65 paid in total. The remaining ten suggestions will be dealt with in the next few weeks. As far as the Company is concerned, the more money it pays out on good suggestions the better since it all assists the drive towards a more efficient company.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the increased scale of awards described in the last News Review, which are:

- (a) Suggestions which cannot be adopted but which merit an award up to £20
- (b) Suggestions which can be adopted but where the total savings are likely to be less than £100 a year up to £50
- (c) Suggestions which can be adopted and which are likely to create savings of more than £100 in a year £50 to £500
- (d) Suggestions of exceptional merit will be referred to the General Manager for special consideration by the Board of Directors Over £500

I am sure there is scope for many more suggestions. If an idea occurs to you that you consider may lead to savings in whatever way, please put it down on paper IMMEDIATELY and send it to me at Head Office.

W. A. MARKHAM, General Manager.

MONOPOLIES AND MERGERS COMMISSION

SINCE the last News Review, a number of important stages have been concluded as follows:—

1. The detailed Terms of Reference for the Enquiry were announced on 9th October, 1980 and the focus of the Enquiry was said to be on efficiency and costs, particularly in relation to the use of manpower and the appraisal and financing of capital works. On 18th November, 1980, an additional reference was added concerning the fairness of a domestic charging structure based on rateable value, including the whole question of metering and other possible methods of charging.
2. Officers of the Commission carried out detailed investigations and discussions with the Management of the Company prior to compiling their detailed reports. Representatives of both staff and manual Trade Unions were also included in discussions with the Commission.
3. The Chairman, General Manager and Senior Management attended a Formal Hearing in London on 11th February at which formal questions were put to and answered by the Company. The process is designed to supplement the detailed discussions etc., mentioned in 2 above.
4. The Commission are now in the process of compiling their formal report which they intend to send to the Secretary of State on 8th April, 1981. At present, the printing and publication date is not yet known but it is expected that the Report will be published by the end of May.

The Company Salute a Gentleman

SIR ARNOLD WATERS (Knighthood 1954)

V.C., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L., J.P., F.I.C.E., F.I.Mech.E., F.I.Struct.E., F.I.W.E.S., F.G.S. Was born in Plymouth in September 1886 and was educated at Hoe Grammar School.

He married Gladys, daughter of Rev. C. D. Barriball in 1924.

During World War I he served with the Royal Engineers.

He was made J.P. in Sutton Coldfield in 1929.

During World War II he was Divisional Food Officer for Midlands Division.

It is obvious to all, that he served his country gallantly and was awarded the highest honour paid to any Soldier, the V.C.

I have been told that when asked, how he acquired his V.C., his answer was simply 'I just happened to be there'.

He was D.L. West Midlands; Hon. Colonel; Life Governor Rydal School, 1957-67 President of the Institution of Structural Engineers, 1933-34, 1943-44, 1946-59 Chairman of South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. He was Director for most of these years as well.

Sir Arnold died on 22nd January, 1981 at the age of ninety four.

I, as Editor, had been informed that Sir Arnold Waters had died. Naturally such a sad event needed a worthy tribute, but I have been amazed how many people, who knew Sir Arnold personally came to me, knowing that I being reasonably new to the firm had now known this fine gentleman and prompted me not to forget to honour him.

L. B. Stokes (Walsall) pensioner, took the time to write a long letter expressing his regard for Sir Arnold and begging me to include a fitting tribute.

To do justice to such a request I leave this to one who knew and respected Sir Arnold.

OBITUARY

Those of us still in service and many more in retirement who knew him, mourn the death of a man, who held a high place in our esteem and affection and from the conversations and messages I have received, I know that it would be the wish of all that we should place on record the loss we feel on his passing, and extend to Lady Waters and her family our condolences in their loss.

In my various capacities in the Company, the former Staff Association Club and the Pension Fund, I had the good fortune to get to know Sir Arnold quite well and his personal interest in both the employees and retired members of the Company was always apparent to me. I well remember the events which led up to the first pensioners outing being held in 1956 and every year since—it all started from his concern for pensioners' welfare and I received his authority to launch this scheme.

He was a man of the highest integrity, his military career was well known, holding the V.C., D.S.O., and M.C. and he devoted much of his time to the care and welfare of disabled ex-servicemen.

R. G. CLARKE



A photograph from an old 'News Review' of Major A. H. S. Waters, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., M.Inst.C.E., I.C., taken in 1941 when he was elected to The Board of Directors.



Sir Arnold Waters and Lady Waters greeting a pensioner at one of the earlier pensioners' outings.

A Romany Renovation

I KNEW it was going to be a good day when I set out to meet Doug Shuker at Blithfield Reservoir for the sun was actually shining, and giving off heat, a rare occasion during the 1980 Summer.

I had visited Blithfield once before and the tranquillity that this reservoir lends to the surrounding area made my second visit a too long delayed journey.

Abbots Bromley, South Staffordshire Waterwork's own Brigadoon nestles close to the reservoir and a friendly inhabitant, who obviously knew all those connected with the reservoir, directed me down the small winding road to my destination.

'PORTFIELDS' is a dream house, at least on a beautiful Summer day, it certainly seemed so.

The house overlooks the reservoir, so close that one has merely to step out of the front door, cross the gravelled path and walk only a few yards over the pure velvet lawn to reach the water's edge.

Doug Shuker and his wife Alice were both there and also two young gentlemen, who proved to be reporters from the Express & Star.

I, a total amateur in the literary field, tried to look efficient and knowledgeable and carried my notebook and pencil poised at all times.

As we all looked over the wonderful caravan that Doug had devoted most of his spare time to over the last two years, I could see that this had been a labour of love.

The photograph he showed me of the original condition of the caravan proved it had been quite a mammoth task and Doug said that the original paint, which had to be completely removed, was $\frac{1}{8}$ " thick.

The carvings that adorned the doors and outside had in places to be completely recarved and the wheels need all new fallies.

But believe me if the outside was a challenge then you had only to see the picture of the bare and dirty interior that used to be and compare it with the beauty that almost invited you to stay within to almost believe in Fairy Godmothers.

At one end of the caravan and crossways is a bunk bed, so designed that it can be pulled out to make it into a double bunk.

Directly under the bunk and fitted totally into the base is a table that remains hidden but can easily be pulled out.

Beneath that is a cupboard, which when opened reveals yet another smaller bed for children.

The whole of the bunk is surrounded by red velvet curtains edged with gold bobbles, the work of Alice, Doug's wife who added all the necessary feminine touches.

As you enter the door, at the top of the wooden steps, there is a small stove to the left, an authentic piece used by the Gypsies.

Fitted into the interior are cupboards, including a beautiful corner cupboard, that although part of the original caravan have needed a great deal of work to restore them to their present magnificence.

All around the top are tiny coloured glass slots that seem to light the inside in a spectrum of colour.

The caravan now finished will be part of a private museum which a farmer friend has been building for twenty five years or more.

We returned to sit in the cool front room of this tranquil house and over a cup of tea, Alice and Doug smiled as they shared a few memories of how they first became involved in a hobby which has taken them through twenty five years of their marriage.

It all began when their daughter was a baby and Doug made her a few small models to amuse her. He finally made her a little Traction Engine and it snowballed from then.

As Doug said the fulfilment and satisfaction when you complete a painstaking task of re-building something to its former glory cannot be excelled.

Another side to Doug is his love of Orchids and although he modestly declared he only dabbles in this section of Horticulture. Alice unable to control her pride chastised him for his modesty and demanded to know what the cups, awarded for his blooms were for and why did she bother to lovingly clean them.

He took me into his greenhouses at the back of the house and certainly I felt I had entered a miniature botanical garden and it is obvious that his Orchids are also given a great deal of love and attention.

It was he said not the time of year for me to see the best of the Orchids which he had produced and he had very little to show me but even so I was truly impressed.

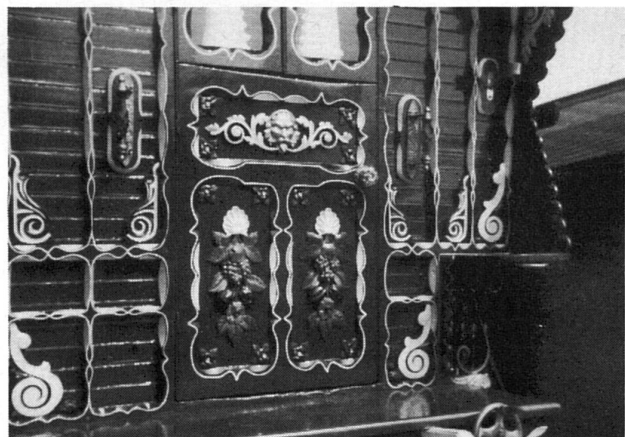
It was obvious during my brief time in their company that Alice and Doug had found complete contentment in life and each other, a state of mind to be truly envied in the present day.



Regrettably only colour photography could do justice to this cyclamen pink orchid.



The renovation complete



A close up to show the detail of the carving Doug had to renovate

C. TURNER.

WELCOME

To the new Deputy Distribution Engineer



DAVID PENNA was educated at Cheltenham & Birmingham University where he gained a (B.Sc.Hons. in Civil Engineering) Chartered Civil Engineer.

He is a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Institution of Water Engineers and Scientists, and during the years 1974/75, also burnt the midnight oil at night school to gain accountancy qualifications.

He has been previously employed at Gloucestershire County Council (before

graduation), and then at The Oxfordshire & District Water Board; The Thames Water Authority—(New Works Dept.); Severn Trent Water Authority—Tame Division, initially as Principal of Distribution Works Section and later as Controller of the Birmingham Water Distribution Unit.

He is married with two young children, Lucy aged 5 and Joseph aged 2. His interests outside his family are motor sports, cross country and all sports, although he stresses that his sporting interests are at the lowest possible level.

RETIREMENTS AND LONG SERVICE AWARDS

SAYING GOODBYE TO SID

The Walsall Social Club marked the retirement of Sid Cooper with a dance at Pelsall Community Centre on Saturday, 30th August 1980.

The whole event was a spectacular success in most acceptable surroundings and the inclusive buffet was indeed a gastronomic delight.

To add a nice touch to the evening Mrs. Cooper was successful in winning the raffle and the socket set prize.

I'm sure Sid will find it very useful and it will help keep him occupied during a hopefully long and happy retirement.



Terry McAllister presents Sid Cooper with a cheque and Mrs Cooper with a bouquet.

BACK AT THE CONTROL OFFICE

Sid was presented with a Stereo Radio Cassette Recorder by Mr. D. Brown, Chief Engineer on behalf of his colleagues, who all wish both Sid and Mrs. Cooper Good Health and Good Luck.



David Brown hands over the stereo outfit.

ALF MYERS

Sadly my short lived association with Alf as Joint Managing Co-ordinator has come to an end. I believe that we made a good team and I only hope that I can produce the future Magazines, to the standard we achieved in our first edition.

Alf joined the Company in 1946, after a war service as a PETTY OFFICER in the FLEET AIR ARM.

He became the Assistant Superintendent at Walsall in January 1960 and Office Manager in 1961.

He took up appointment as Deputy Head of Section at Head Office in 1965 and played a very active part in the development of the New Administration Department.

Unfortunately the last few years have been dogged with ill health and sadly, for all concerned, it has meant early retirement.

Alf will be missed by all his colleagues, for his quiet, gentlemanly bearing made any contact with him a pleasure, and with all the love and care that will be lavished on him by his family, I know he will be soon totally recovered and able to sit back and enjoy life.



Alf receives a cheque from Mr. Markham

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Beautiful carriage clocks were presented to two of our retiring personnel in recognition for their years of service.

W. B. Marshall—Carpenter—New Works Department, who retired on 21st January, 1981 after serving the Company for 43 years. He joined the Company as an improver carpenter and spent all of his service in the Building Section.

It would seem service to the Company is almost a family commitment, as his father worked 26 years, his son Keith 7 years and his son in law 8 years.

During the war years, he was called up and was in the Pioneer Corps attached to the Royal Engineers.

He enjoys darts and dominoes and supports Walsall Football Club.

Unfortunately his wife has not been in good health and in retirement he hopes to spend more time looking after her.



Mr & Mrs W. B. Marshall

A. J. Cook—Welder—Wood Green Workshops, who retired on 31st December, 1980, has served the Company for 44 years. He joined the Company as an apprentice and has been involved in all major development work, especially the electrification and automation of Pumping Stations.

His war years were spent as an Aircraftsman in the R.A.F.

He also had a family whose service to the Company amounted to quite a few years.

His father served 35 years, his brother 9 years and his uncle 20 years.

At one time, when he lived at Longdon and worked at Wood Green, he cycled 30 miles a day to and from work but eventually moved into a Company Cottage on the Wood Green doorstep.

A keen D.I.Y. man he has worked hard improving his home.

A heart condition has resulted in his taking early retirement and he is disappointed that he is unable to continue his work.

We wish him and Harrold Marshall a very happy retirement.



Mr & Mrs A. J. Cooke

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

All the Social Clubs have been extremely active since our last report and their diaries of events were as follows:—

(Birmingham) 11th October—Sports Day
S.S.W.W. v TAME (see write up)

Tipton 30th October Barn Dance
This was a new venture and proved very successful.

Birmingham 8th November—Bonfire
150 attended and enjoyed the firework display and beefburgers, hot-dogs and hot soup.

Tipton 11th November Sponsored Five a side football. Veterans against Juniors.

This was a fund raising event for the children's Xmas Party and was very successful, approx. £60 was raised.

Tipton & Walsall 14th November Sports Night. Darts, Dominoes & Cribbage. Walsall won.

Walsall 5th December Xmas Buffet Dance. (see write up).

Tipton 11th December
Beer and skittles night at Kinver.

Walsall 13th December—Children's Party
Santa Clause was Bob Pearsall.

Tipton 18th December—Disco
A full house, an event always popular.

Tipton 20th December—Children's Party
With magician and disco. Santa Clause was Denis Jones.

Birmingham 10th January—Children's Party
Held at Green Lane. Len Jackson as Santa Clause and Vicky Brown as our good fairy.

Walsall 6th February—Social Evening
With Burton Depot at Pelsall Cricket Club. Light refreshments and dancing.

Birmingham—19th February
A.G.M. meeting, Buffet provided and The Quiz Finals.

1st Semi Final—Technocrats v Building Blocks

2nd Semi Final—Bits & Pieces v Op's-N-P's

Full report in Next Issue.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thurs. Apl. 16th
Five-a-side Competition—Leasowes Sports Centre, Kent Road, Halesowen.

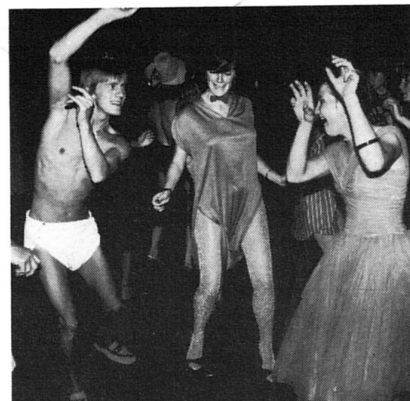
Thurs. Apl. 23rd
Easter Disco—Catholic Church Hall.

Friday Feb. 27th
Walsall
Games Evening at Green Lane
Birmingham v Tipton v Walsall.

Friday Apl. 24th
Beer & Skittles Evening at the Swan, Harborne Rd., Edgbaston. 8.00 p.m. Buffet, Member £3.00.

May
Birmingham
Rhine Trip

Thurs. Apl. 2nd
Annual Dinner Dance, Penns Hall, Sutton Coldfield. Details later.



Things were really swinging at the Birmingham 'Come as Outrageous as you Dare' Disco.



WALSALL: the story so far

THE Walsall Social Club came into existence at the beginning of 1969 as a result of Mr. L. B. Stokes' (the Walsall Area Superintendent) retirement dinner and dance in April of that year, which proved to be an outstanding success.

Mr. K. Webb, at that time a member of the Supervisory Staff at Walsall, proceeded in the organisation of a committee. The first meeting of the thirteen people elected to serve took place on the 14th May 1970, when the aim of the Club, which was to create, promote and organise social activities for members and their families, was established.

The social calendar for 1980 began with a pantomime outing in February, followed by a 'Free 'N' Easy evening in March. In May, members enjoyed a Sunday morning Breakfast Trip, and on a wet and windy Saturday in July, we held a Fishing Contest. September was the month we held our Buffet Dance, which proved to be a very popular and successful evening, with 218 members and friends attending. It was in this month we tried for the first time a fun 'Cricket Match' (using the word cricket lightly), this event put everyone into confusion with new rules being made as the match progressed, we are still not sure whether the best team won or lost, needless to say a re-match is being arranged for 1981. On the 14th

November we held our long awaited Sports Night, with Tipton Social Club, which I am happy to say we just about managed to win.

Finally, it was gratifying to see 176 members enjoying themselves at the Annual Dance at the Pelsall Community Centre on Friday, 1st December, with this year the ladies receiving a box of 'After Eight Mints', and the following week we saw the children really enjoying themselves at the Children's Party, with cartoon films and a disco.



Mervyn Penny, Doris Wright and Ron Perks obviously enjoying the evening with Walsall Social Club.

The Committee would like to express their thanks to all its members and also to the many people outside the Social Club, who have given the help which has been so vital in making the Social Club the success it is and has been over the years.

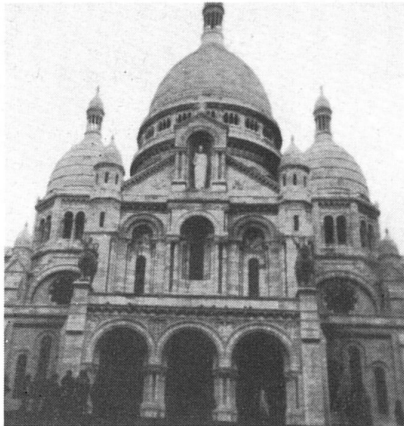
Our membership details are:— 434 Members

Members and Associate Members pay 5p per week or £2.50 per annum, and participate in the weekly draw pay out of £4, two bottles of Sherry and £1.



Colin Johnson and Chris Allsop with their wives enjoying one of the many Walsall Social evenings.

PARIS TRIP 1980



WELL, John Morrall has done it again, on the 17th October 1980, a coach load of pleasure seeking travellers set out for the lights and gaiety of Paris.

The journey to the ferry had only one interruption, this being a stop to pick up the tour guide Monica. To say she was a cross between Barbara Woodhouse and Frank Spencer is an understatement.

Her first blunder was in informing us "You will shortly be passing Canterbury Cathedral, oh, someone must have moved it", or its follow up, "You will now be able to see Dover Castle", we had passed the best view of it two miles up the road. The capping comment to beat them all came half way from Calais to Paris, we were all woken by the voices of our guide at four in the morning informing us "This is your breakfast stop".

Paris is one of Europe's most beautiful cities, it would take more than a long weekend visit to see all it has to offer. Our first sight of Paris could not have been better, right beneath the Eiffel Tower from which it was only a short walk to the River Seine. As an added bonus we visited Sacra Coeur, a large Cathedral set on a hill overlooking Paris, this gave the chance of a panoramic view of the city.

The visit to Versailles was not long enough to take in the beauty and size of this grand palace.

To take in all that there is to see at Versailles it would take at least two to three days. The grounds of this most famous of France's buildings are beyond description. If you want to see them all, a pair of good walking shoes are in order due to the vast area that they cover. The city itself has a vast range of shops as well as sites to visit and see, most of the

of us found it useful to return to the hotel via the Metro, others who shall remain nameless found it was quite easy to cadge lifts off the local Police when they got lost after using the Metro.

Alas our trip came to an end and we had to make our way home, this was at least helped



Ann Jasper and one of our friendly drivers, part of the group who enjoyed a friendly get-together in the Hotel Bar in the evening.

shops were open on Sunday, which gave us all a chance of purchasing a few mementos of our visit.

The Hotel was very comfortable, modern and had every convenience for our visit. Some

along by the clink of many bottles of plonk in one form or another. Most agreed that the trip had been well organised as well as being worth the money, and Paris should be credited with a further visit.

TONY PHIPPS
Management Services

A titillating evening with Tipton

WE boarded the coach, a little apprehensive for we were not sure of the reception we would receive from the natives.

The route was such a closely guarded secret that no tickets were issued and the driver wore dark glasses and a blindfold.

Past the Tower blocks on the sky line and on to checkpoint Charlie, fortunately no border incidents occurred and then on towards our eventual destination.

Having arrived we were ushered into the reception centre.

Here surprise number one awaited us, the natives spoke English. English with a difference, but if one listened carefully, gradually some words became more clear, and the need for phrase books and an interpreter seemed less remote.

'YO DUE' & 'YO BIN' seemed to be the most common phrase of the native tongue.

We entered the main hall and in the harsh glare of the spotlights we immediately could see the rows of tables and the neat men in their black and white uniforms.

Where were we? The Kingfisher Country Club, Dudley.

After the excellent meal we were able to enjoy the dancing and cabaret for no extra charge and the question on the lips of the sixty or so members and friends who attended was 'When is the next one?'

Ron Woodhouse.



Garden Club (B'ham)

This club has been flourishing for some time and the members are very enthusiastic.

The strength behind the Club has been Harold Hatfield, who has devoted a great deal of time and effort into organising the various trips that are so popular.

The following list of outings to date, show the many interesting places the Club has visited over the last five years and it was noticeable to us non-members, who made the trip to the bulb field in Amsterdam just how enthusiastic this little group are and their knowledgeable comments helped to enlighten our visit.

LIST OF OUTINGS TO DATE

1. May 1975 — RHS Gardens—Wisley.
2. May 1976 — Northern Horticultural Gardens—Harrogate, Yorks.
3. July 1976 — National Rose Society Gardens—St. Albans, Hants.
4. May 1977 — Bodnant Gardens & Conway—North Wales.
5. June 1978 — Stourhead House & Gardens—Wiltshire.
6. September 1978 — Arley Hall & Gardens—Chester.
7. May 1979 — Waddesdon Manor & Banbury—Bucks.
8. October 1979 — Westonbirt Arboretum and Bath—Gloucester.
9. May 1980 — Hatfield House & St. Albans—Herts.
10. July 1980 — Tour of Cambridge Colleges and Gardens.
11. September 1980 — Wisley Royal Horticultural Gardens.

1981 Outings

Saturday 16th May, 1981

Kew visit is cancelled and replaced by another attempt to visit R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley. Those members who were listed on 27th September, 1980 will be given first chance of booking. Any cancellations will be taken in rotation.

Saturday 27th June, 1981

Chatsworth and Bakewell.

Saturday 12th September, 1981

Hodnet Hall Gardens.

Saturday 17th October, 1981

Wakehurst Place, Sussex.

Elizabeth knows how to make a good entrance

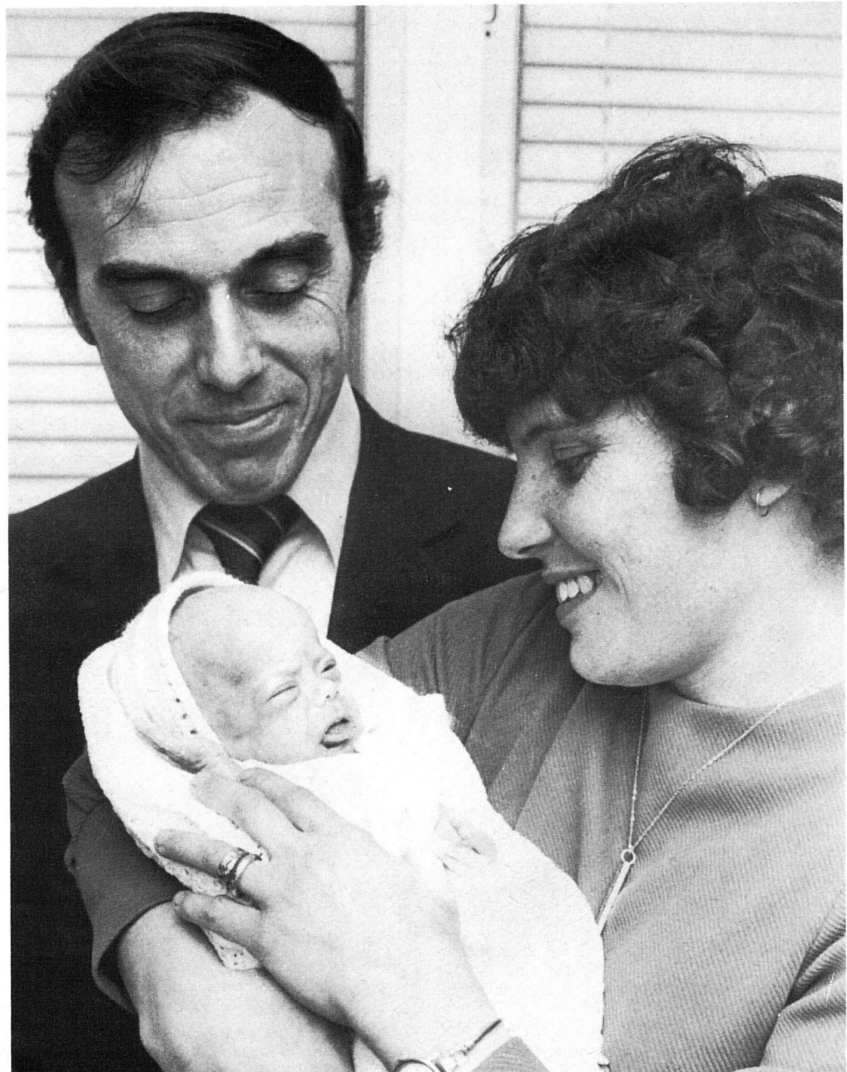
'A Star is Born', perhaps there is truth in that statement as certainly Elizabeth Treasaden's arrival was a scene-stealing event. This tiny little lady of only 2lb 4oz arrived three months prematurely and made headlines as she fought to remain in the limelight.

To add a little spice to the situation she even managed to drop her weight down to just 1.11lbs and caused her parents a few sleepless nights in the process.

However, with 'True Grit' she rallied forth and finally made a real comeback.

Peter Treasaden of Hinksford Pumping Station and his wife Valerie have now taken her home from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to meet her brother Scott aged nine and sisters Susan aged eight and five year old Amanda.

Perhaps life will return to normality in the Treasaden household, but Peter, don't be too sure.



HOW I STARTED ANTIQUE COLLECTING

ONE Christmas several years ago, I was looking in an antique shop window for something different to buy for my wife. Noticing an attractive vase about 8" high and engraved rather nicely with autumn leaves, I went in and asked the price, it didn't seem too expensive and I was told it was Lambeth Doulton and about 100 years old.

My wife liked it very much and it had pride of place upon the mantel piece. The following year I went to the same shop and noticed a pair of small rose vases 3" high, embossed with flowers and butterflies, noticed that they were also Lambeth Doulton so bought them to complement the other vase and they were also much appreciated at home.

This became a yearly thing for a while, perhaps occasionally buying other types of pottery which happened to take our fancy. As time went on we found ourselves getting more interested in Doulton Ware. Eventually we started going to Antique Fairs, one of the first was at the N.E.C. at Bickenhill and we found it fascinating, slowly, what was once a yearly affair became a more frequent thing, until we were quite bitten by the antique bug.

We then started buying books on Doulton Ware and found the history of its beginning fascinating. Once we learnt a little more about the subject, we started to specialize in the older and more expensive items. The variety seems endless and now we have quite a considerable collection of about 40 items of various sizes and shapes, all with the artists and assistants own interpretation and style. They are all marked clearly on the bottom of each item with artists own initials and symbols, impressed when the clay is soft in such a way which proves their authenticity, fakes in Doulton Ware are extremely rare.

With careful planning and extra shelves and the odd plant or two we have incorporated them into our home decor with good effect. So now we have a mixture of old and valuable items mixed with the modern, such as a 100 year old water filter 14" high still in working order and has pride of place on a nest of tables, which is fairly old and attractively veneered in walnut. Also a selection of beautifully embossed jardinières, which hold an assortment of plants with good effect. So they can be both useful and attractive.

Another bonus is, that whenever we visit a fresh place or go on holiday we tend to look for antique shops and fairs. We browse for hours and it has given us a great deal of pleasure. It is not necessary to buy every time, because just looking is fascinating.

Leaving the beauty and interest side, we have also an investment for the future, ours and our childrens, who have already staked their claims to various items that have taken their fancy, and of course their value increases with every year that passes.

Of course Doulton Ware is our particular interest, some people may find collecting glass, silverware, old books, jewellery, pictures and furniture more to their liking, the range is endless. In this age of mass production and plastics it is nice and very satisfying to own something which has been handmade with a lot of thought and skill put into it.

M. J. KILMINSTER,
E.M.D.

Antiques: Today's Junk — Tomorrow's Treasures

ANTIQUe collecting is a hobby that can so easily become a way of life. At first, a mild interest, perhaps because of something given by an ageing aunt, starts you researching half heartedly into an antique book of a friend and suddenly, a discovery that you actually have something worthy of cataloguing inflames your wish to possess other articles.

The excitement of an Auction and bidding in competition with some other would be buyer heightens the now already eager desire to possess and one has to be careful not to allow ones enthusiasm to go beyond one's purse.

One of my proudest possessions is a Royal Doulton Figurine signed by 'NOKE', the late Art Director of Doulton.

The Figurine depicts Ellen Terry the great actress and was originally paired with a figure of Sir Henry Irving.

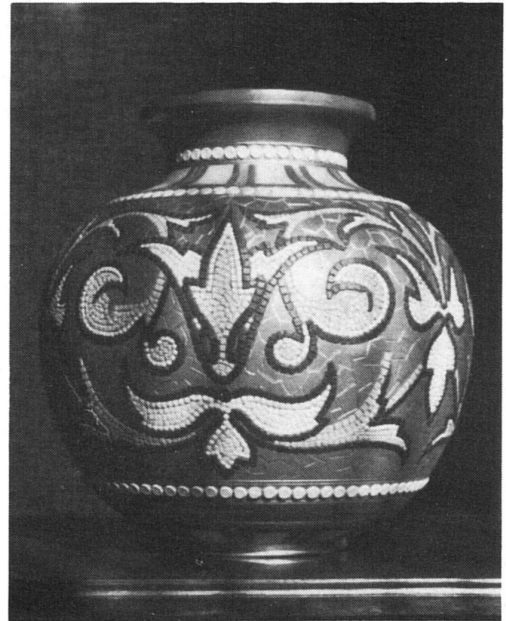
I am aware of where this other Figurine is and would hope to purchase it in the future.

To become an expert takes years of research and it is really necessary to concentrate on one subject and learn all there is to know.

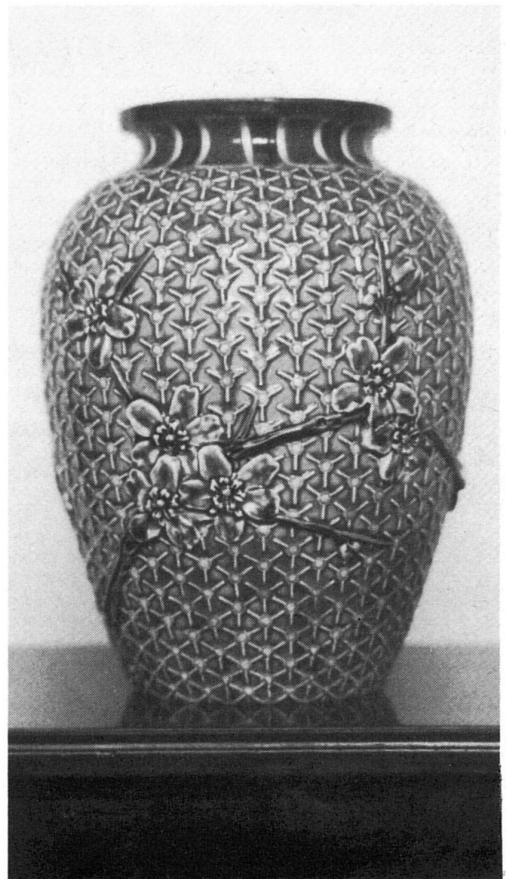
I joined an Antique Circle and I would recommend anyone who is interested to try and locate such a group in your own area.

Let us know if you are already a seasoned collector as I am sure it will be of interest to others.

CELIA TURNER



*Doulton Lambeth (Silicon) Vase
by Eliza Simmance 1880-1891*



*Doulton Lambeth Vase
1880-1891 by Emily J. Partington*

RETIREMENT—A BLESSING OR A BORE

SID SEEMS SATISFIED

For the past four years I had prepared myself for retirement from the Company, because it is a stage in life, like everything else, that has to be anticipated and enjoyed to the full, to avoid boredom.

During February and March 1980, with the guidance of the Union and the consent of the Company, I was able to attend a Pre-retirement Course, consisting of eight consecutive Wednesday afternoon sessions and the advice and information was without doubt extremely advantageous, especially subjects on "The Use of Leisure, Finance, Tax, Pensions and Benefits, Savings and Budgeting for retirement." It all added to give confidence in the new phase of life.

My retirement day came in August and I was presented with a Portable Cassette Recorder, and a cheque which I put towards the cost

of a small cabinet to accommodate the recorder and two cassette cabinets.

The day was a memorable day for me, and I express my thanks to the whole Company for the magnificent support and good wishes. I left the Central Office with pride.

This event was followed by a Buffet Dance arranged by the Walsall Area Office, and with my family being present, a very enjoyable evening was attained, the cheque presented to me was spent to further my collection of cassette records.

I am now enjoying my retirement to the full. Many thanks to all.

SID COOPER

AND BILL, WHO TOOK EARLY RETIREMENT, SAYS IT ALL

LIFE BEGINS AT SIXTY

The above heading is not quite true but it does signify a change in life-style if you have made that very big decision and retired at the age of sixty years. It is not an easy decision to make as so many things have to be taken into consideration.

Let us assume, however, that you have fulfilled all the necessary conditions which entitle you to a full pension at the age of sixty, i.e. that you have forty years contributory service in the Pension Scheme and also the National Health contributory scheme. This being so, then the financial position should not offer any great difficulties. Most people, by the time they have reached the age of sixty, have paid off the mortgage if they have been buying their own house. 'So how do you stand'. Offset against the drop in income are several factors:—

- (1) The princely sum of 1½ times your salary at the time of retirement properly invested, will bring you a reasonable amount of interest.
- (2) You no longer have travelling expenses to and from work.
- (3) Your contributions to the Pension Scheme cease.
- (4) No further contributions are necessary to the National Health Scheme (You should however get confirmation in writing from your local Social Security Office after Nr. 5 below).
- (5) It is necessary to register for employment at your local employment exchange and, after approximately 3 weeks, you commence to receive unemployment pay which continues for 12 months. In addition, you receive Earnings Related Benefit for a period of 6 months.
- (6) You can, if desired, earn a limited amount weekly in part time work without becoming eligible for further National Health contributions).

If you have less than forty years service then you should discuss the matter with the Secretary's Department before deciding on early retirement.

Having retired at the age of sixty, you have now to decide what you are going to do with all the time you will have on your hands. It is essential that you maintain discipline in your daily life and do not allow yourself to become apathetic or bored—this will exasperate your wife and probably give her homicidal tendencies towards you. It is important, too, that you keep fit and I would suggest that whilst the little woman is

doing her usual household chores you spend a couple of hours gardening. It is surprising how soon the garden can be knocked into shape so that, in summer, it can be a place for enjoyment rather than a burden. Remember also to take some of the household work so that your wife can profit from your retirement.

Regular walking keeps the blood circulating and you will find lots of interest you—even in your immediate locality. My wife and I often motor to various villages and towns, park the car, and set off on voyages of discovery. All the outlying places which, whilst at work, were just names on a map you can now get to know intimately.

It is recommended that you have a hobby or do voluntary work of some kind. I was fortunate enough to be invited to join the local Lions International club which is part of a world wide charitable organisation whose motto is "We Serve". We have various fund raising activities to provide the necessary cash to help the under-privileged in our area, such as transporting the handicapped to training centres, providing equipment for youth organisations and many other worthwhile causes. The social activities of the club have greatly extended our circle of friends and we very rarely have a dull moment. In addition, I still practice hypnotherapy and have a fairly constant flow of clients. Also, I am restoring an old Austin 7 Box Saloon though progress is very slow. So you see that if you make the effort your retirement can mean a very full and satisfying life.

For a very enlightening article on retirement I would refer you to issue Nr. 17 of "Family", obtainable free from any Trustee Savings Bank.

Good Luck,

BILL HUNTER,
Ex. Consumer Services

If after reading these articles you have any questions to be answered about retirement, get in touch with Head Office, Confidential Administrative Department, who will be only too pleased to help.

Remember there are pre-retirement courses available so if you could benefit from attending such a course don't be afraid to ask.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATERWORKS COMPANY HANDICRAFTS & COLLECTORS' CORNER EXHIBITION

Do you have any unusual article you have collected or own, which you would like to display? Do you have any hobbies, such as metal-work, model making, needlework, painting or any skill which produces any article that also could be displayed?

Please contact: Celia Turner, *Magazine Editor*,
Green Lane, Walsall.
Tel: Walsall 38282, Ext 219

SPORTS DAY S.S.W.W. v TAME DIVISION 11th October, 1980

THIS year our Sports Day was held at Manor Farm Centre, Rushall and organised by the Host Team, South Staffordshire Waterworks.

As usual the day was a great success and the evening Disco that followed was very well attended.

We had a variety of Sporting Challenges which included five-a-side football, Table Tennis, Squash, Netball, Darts, Dominoes, Badminton and Skittles.

The results of the event were as follows:—

Five-a-side Football 1.30 p.m.

12 matches played and 8 teams competing.
Tame won 7; S.S.W.W. won 3.

Tame Team 1 were the overall winners, not losing a game.

Netball 2.45 p.m.

S.S.W.W. team beat Tame 19 goals to 6.

Table Tennis 1.30 p.m.

16 matches played. Tame 12; S.S.W.W. 4.
Overall winners P. Smith (Indiv. champ) and E. Kain.

Squash 1.30 p.m.

16 games played S.S.W.W. 7; Tame 8.
Match drawn.

R. Nunn (Tame) won individual award unbeaten. J. Goddard (Tame) won runners up.

Badminton 4.00 p.m.

S.S.W.W. 14; Tame 10.
Dodson, Wood, Sedden and Lees (Mixed Pairs) won team award.

Darts 7.30 p.m.

Singles S.S.W.W. 4, Tame 5
Doubles S.S.W.W. 0, Tame 4

Dominoes 7.30 p.m.

S.S.W.W. 5, Tame 4
Arthur Stevens (Bourne Vale) and Mike Troke (Wood Green) won pairs.

Skittles 7.30 p.m. (Play delayed until later in evening.)

	S.S.W.W.	TAME
Men	85	92
Women	69	75

Tame therefore retained the cup.

Our thanks to all the organisers for their hard work and look forward to our challenge next year and remember if you are expert in any of the games played don't be shy let us know now for the future.

THE PLANT—AGIN—NUTS.

We are the plant's controllers.
Our names are Chris and Kay,
We use the Company's water
Our mission is to spray.

We tour the office every week,
Equipped with gadgets beyond belief
A dipstick here, a funnel there,
A bucket, a spade are all in our care.

We prune the leaves and gloss them up
And talk to them very politely,
Give them a drink from South Staffs. taps
After which they stand up precisely.

One week they caught Red Spider,
A very nasty blight,
Treatment now was needed!
As a rescue from their plight.

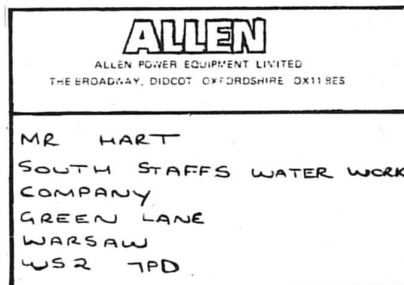
We rang a garden centre,
Who said "we know it well, in fact
call round and see us
If your creepers feel unwell".

In half a thrice the cure was found,
Contained within a can
A few short blasts of this fine balm
Restored equilibrium.

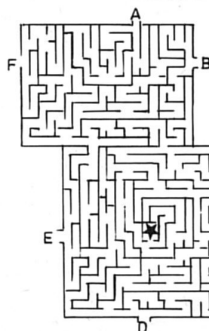
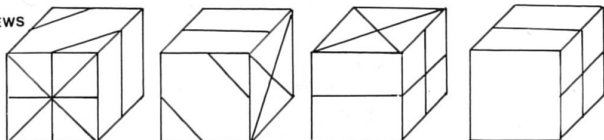
A green fingers' life is never dull
In fact, it can be dramatic,
We've a transplant programme in progress
right now,
The results could be catastrophic!!!

Christine Whistance
Distribution Department

When we moved to Green Lane in February 1980 there were those of us who complained it was like moving to SIBERIA. Obviously there are some outsiders who feel the same.

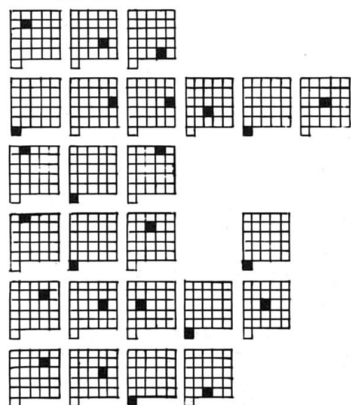


RIGHT: FOUR VIEWS OF SAME CUBE. WHAT DESIGN IS ON BLANK FACE?

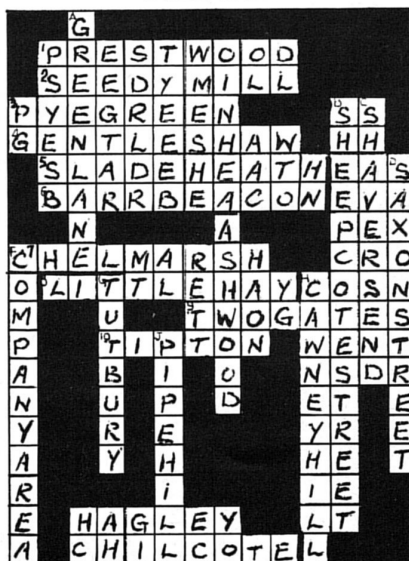


ABOVE: LABYRINTH, WHICH ENTRANCE LEADS TO STAR?

RIGHT: DECODE MESSAGE



REVIEW CROSSWORD SOLUTION



N.A.L.G.O. Annual General Meeting 13th NOVEMBER, 1980

Elected Members of Executive Committee

Officers:

J. P. N. Dunne	— Chairman
Vacant	— Branch Secretary
D. Drew	— Welfare Secretary
T. Smith	— Treasurer
D. J. Harrison	— Education/Pub. Ser.

Note: D. J. Harrison has agreed to filling the Branch Secretary post temporarily.

Representatives:

Mrs. C. Turner, J. Anderton, E. Smith, P. Dodd, J. Harris.

Two vacancies for representatives still exist. It was noted that there are powers of Co-option of persons not elected.

It is very unfortunate that our previous Branch Secretary, Alan Lander did not seek re-election.

Those of us who know, how efficient Alan was in this role feel there has been a great loss to the Executive as well as the Company. His ability to discuss fairly and with a high level of decorum, the various problems that arose, must be viewed with respect by all.

I'm sure we would all wish to thank him and hope that his break from Executive duties is only temporary.

He was presented with a small gift by the Executive.

Note: Re: the two vacancies
R. Woodhouse (New Works/Building Sec.)
G. H. Green (D.D. Walsall)
have now been co-opted on to the Executives, however, J. Anderton (Head Office) has resigned due to pressure of work.

Denis Drew, our Welfare Officer sent the following to our members:-

Get Well Cards

A. Myers, Head Office
A. Barratt, Tipton Area Office
Mrs. M. Ball, Green Lane
S. E. Wright, Wood Green
D. Chapman, Head Office
Miss J. Bridgewood, Tipton Area Office
K. Marshall, Seedy Mill
P. Dodd, Green Lane
Miss V. A. Bentham, Head Office
G. Watkins, Green Lane

Baskets of Fruit

Mrs. M. Ball
A. Barratt
J. Billingham, Head Office
G. Eades, Head Office
A. Myers
D. Chapman
P. Dodd
Miss J. Bridgewood
K. Marshall
Miss V. A. Bentham

Retirements

Many of our retiring personnel have given long service to the firm and all are worthy of some notable reference. However it is impossible for me, with limited news space to give credit to all concerned and I would beg their indulgence. I wish you all good health and happiness in your retirement.

	Work Location	Date of Retirement	Length of Service
H. Brooks	Transport	31.10.80	34 years
G. Eades	Admin. Head Office	31.10.80	29 years
F. C. Barlow	E.M.D.	30.11.80	20 years
W. R. Stackhouse	Sutton	30.11.80	29 years
A. F. Myers	Admin. Head Office	31.12.80	33 years
D. Priestley	Laboratory	31.12.80	30 years
C. Guy	Wood Green Stores	31.12.80	34 years
H. Richardson	Cannock	5.9.80	25 years
A. J. Cooke	Wood Green	31.12.80	43 years
C. A. Moorey	Seedy Mill	3.12.80	34 years
Mrs. M. McLean	Cleaner, Head Office	31.12.80	21 years
Mrs. E. F. Robins	Cleaner, Head Office	31.12.80	13 years
E. Pierce	Hampton Loade	8.10.80	3 years
H. B. Marshall	New Works Dept.	21.1.81	43 years

Deaths in Service

Our sincere condolences go to the families and friends of the following:-

W. A. J. Britt (Cookley) died on 29th October, 1980 aged 57 leaving widow, Hilda and a married daughter and one son.

D. Turner (Cannock) died on 23rd October, 1980 aged 39, leaves a widow Jean.

Dave was a keen member of the Pigeon Club and his colleagues collected enough money to present a special cup named 'The Dave Turner Cup' for the fastest pigeon race. Mr. R. C. Lawrence presented it to the club.

Deaths in Retirement

	Died	Retired
R. W. Philip (Chilcote)	3.9.80	1979
W. H. Goode (Burton)	26.9.80	1973
C. M. Page (Lichfield)	6.11.80	1968
W. Shaylor (Wood Green)	28.9.80	1967
L. H. Clarke (Walsall)	15.10.80	1977
F. A. Langford (Smethwick)	5.2.81	1963
W. Bromley (Cannock)	1.2.81	1976
J. A. C. Poyner (Coneygre)	6.2.81	1970
Mrs. R. M. Jones (Cannock)	17.10.80	1972
Note: Mrs. R. M. Jones had served the company for 52 years when she retired.		
T. S. Mansfield (Walsall)	12.2.81	1979

Congratulations

ENGAGEMENTS

Dave Walker (Control Office, Walsall) to Janet Boorer on 1st November, 1980. (Planned wedding May 30th, 1981).

Tony Prendergast (Safety Department) to Judy Woolford (Buying) on 4th August, 1980. (Planned wedding 1st August, 1981).

Julie Campbell (Typists) to Stuart Evans on 1st January, 1981. (Planned wedding July, 1982).

MARRIAGES

Sandra Fall (Accounts) to Ken Townsend at St. Mary's Church, Wythall on 22nd March, 1980. (Sorry we have been so long in announcing it).



Len Jackson (D.D.) our confirmed bachelor finally signs the dotted line.

Len Jackson D.D. to Margaret Freeman at Great Barr Methodist Church on 15th November, 1980.

BIRTHS—1980

12th November—to Gordon and Sally Young (NWD) a girl, baby Kate weighing in at just over 7lb.

23rd October—to Ian and Maureen Randall (Accounts) a girl, baby Laura weighing in at 7lb 8ozs.

26th October—to Dave (Walsall Control) and Helen Pearson, a girl, baby Emma Louise weighing in at 5lb 8ozs.

6th December—to Mike (Admin. Sec. NWD) and Pat Fletcher, baby boy James Neal weighing in at 8lb 4ozs.

11th December—to Doreen (Admin. Sec.) and Ken Nash, baby Shelley Eve weighing in at 6lb 1oz.

1981

11th February—to Robert (EMD) and Yvonne Harding, baby Lisa Jayne weighing in at 8lb 7oz.

DAVID APPLEBY

It was sad to learn that David Appleby, Technical Assistant in Consumer Services passed away in Walsall General Hospital on 14th March, 1981.

David who was 23 years of age sustained serious injuries in a motor car accident the previous day.

The funeral took place at Bushbury Crematorium, Wolverhampton on 20th March, 1981 and floral tributes were sent from the Chairman, Senior Staff, Nalgo, Colleagues and friends.

David's family wish to thank all members of the Company who contributed towards a collection for flowers and a donation of £87 which was sent to the Walsall General Hospital.